The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 12th day of March 1923, the hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR Avargal, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

NEW MEMBER.

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur SATHAPPA RAMANADA MUTHIA CHIDAMBARA PETHACHI CHETTIYAR Avargal was sworn in.

II

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No.* 15—

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

The administration of Salt and Excise Departments.

854 *Q.*—Mr. T. ARUMAINATHA PILLAI : Will the hon. the Member for Finance and the Minister for Education (Excise) be pleased to state—

(1) what steps have been taken for the separate administration of Salt and Excise Departments ;

(2) whether immediate steps could be taken within the limits of expenditure of one-third and two-thirds for Salt and Excise respectively ; and

(3) what economy and retrenchment have been effected since the Budget of 1922–23 in the administration of the Salt and Excise Departments ?

A.—(1) The Government of India have been addressed and their orders are awaited.

(2) It would not be practicable to divide up the existing establishment in the proportions named. A complete reorganization of both branches will be necessary if the duties are to be separated.

(3) The amount of the further retrenchments involved since the Budget of 1922–23 amounts to Rs. 24,740.

Type-design buildings for elementary schools.

855 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur M. C. RAJA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Public Works be pleased to lay on the table G.O. No. 1124 W., dated 17th November 1922, regarding the type-design buildings for elementary schools ?

A.—G.O. No. 1124 W., dated 17th November 1922, will be placed on the table.*

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* *Vide* Appendix A on page 2117 *infra*.